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**Seasonal greetings from the LPC!**

The LPC and the Secretariat team would like to wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year! Thank you to all of your support over the past twelve months; we are looking forward to a challenging and busy new year and look forward to seeing you all at our forthcoming events!



**Prevention is better than cure!**

The long awaited *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England*. Department of Health, was published on the 30 November 2010. It was encouraging to see at least four mentions of community pharmacy in the document and the recognition that pharmacy plays a crucial role in delivering primary care and public health services in local communities

**Recognition of the role of community pharmacy**

Pharmacists are explicitly recognised in the White Paper as part of a wider public health professional network (along with GPs, nurses, allied health professionals and environmental health officers). The pharmacy profession is also acknowledged as a valuable and trusted public health resource: “With millions of contacts with the public each day, community pharmacy teams could be used more effectively to improve health and reduce health inequalities”. And lastly the achievements of Portsmouth’s Healthy Living Pharmacies (HLPs) are highlighted, emphasising the importance of collecting evidence and data!

**So what has happened in Portsmouth?**

An interim report highlighting the outcomes of the Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) project has just been published and has revealed some excellent findings. For example, Stop Smoking – HLPs have delivered on average six times the numbers of quitters as non-HLP pharmacies and did so at the impressive quit rate of 62%. Alcohol – during the football world cup, a pharmacy based campaign delivered more than 1700 interventions, with 830 people having more in depth guidance and 29 people referred to the alcohol intervention team. In six months, HLPs delivered nearly 500 targeted asthma MURs and 74% of those patients were classified as “uncontrolled” using the Asthma Control Test. One third of those patients had not seen their GP or asthma nurse in the previous 12 months.

To the editor, this proves what we have always known. That with appropriate training and support, and associated marketing and promotion of community pharmacy, the profession delivers quality, outcome focused services that benefit the local population and patients!

**Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!**

Did you know that this wonderful Christmas song was created by lyricist Sammy Cahn and the composer Jule Styne in 1945? However much the words and lyrics of “Let It Snow” may make us feel Christmassy, what would you do if you couldn’t reach your pharmacy because of the snow (or any other extreme weather conditions or illness). Please ensure that you have your pharmacy contingency plan available and that your staff know what to do in the event of the pharmacy having to close. Important telephone numbers, including Devon Doctors on call (01392 823174) copies of the local PCT closure notification forms and a template plan can be found on the LPC website in the news section. ([www.devonlpc.org](http://www.devonlpc.org)).



**Wasted Medicines – Wasted Money!**

The LPC has been asked to highlight the over ordering of medicines by some pharmacy contractors using managed repeat systems. We would ask all contractors to ensure they minimise waste of prescribed medicines by making sure, in particular, ‘when required’ items, are needed before ordering them.



### EPS - Coming soon to your local PCT

In the past I have spoken to many pharmacists who never believed that the Electronic Prescription (EPS) would ever happen. However, with the growth of prescriptions to over 810 million in 2009-10 you can certainly see why the government is keen on getting this service running.

The LPC is represented on the EPS project board for NHS Devon, NHS Plymouth and NHS Torbay which has been discussing when each of the organisations will apply to the Secretary of State to be given approval to roll out EPS2. Devon is going to be the first to apply, and could if given approval start the rollout in carefully selected areas in May 2011. It is thought that Plymouth and Torbay would follow later in late summer or early autumn.

This future activity makes it very important that you and your pharmacy teams understand fully what you will need to do to prepare:

**Firstly**, I would recommend that you read the November 2010 Community Pharmacy News, it can be found on the PSNC website under Resources and News, then Publications, the article informs you what will happen to your 'smartcards' for EPS2.

**Second** the Connecting for Health website has a good training resource that can be used by you and your staff. Look under Electronic Prescription Service, then the Health Professionals tab.

**Lastly** write up the above for CPD!

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### **The Second Medicines Supply Problem LPC Stock Audit**

**THANK YOU ALL AGAIN!** I completed a quick count of the audit forms which have been faxed and sent back to us. I believe we have received the forms from about 60 pharmacies which is a great achievement for a busy time of year, so well done.

**If you still have an audit form, it is not too late to get it into the LPC, just post or fax it to us soon as possible, as we will be collating the information over the next few weeks to report back to you in January 2011.**

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### **Generic Medicine Shortages**

Please remember to report stock shortages to the PSNC Information Team (01296 432823) or email <mailto:shortages@psnc.org.uk>. The PSNC information team will then contact wholesalers and manufacturers to establish the extent of the problem and approach the Department of Health to apply for the NCSO Concession as appropriate. Find information on the NCSO concession on the PSNC website [http://www.psnc.org.uk/pages/ncso\\_supply\\_issues.html](http://www.psnc.org.uk/pages/ncso_supply_issues.html). Details of the NCSO for December 2010 and the reimbursement price for Gabapentin 300mg caps can be found on the LPC website [http://www.lpc-online.org.uk/devon\\_lpc/?news\\_id=2937](http://www.lpc-online.org.uk/devon_lpc/?news_id=2937)



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### **Premier Pharmacists in Devon**

The above story was sent into us a few weeks ago; another good example of a local community pharmacist going that extra mile for a patient.

"On a Saturday morning an elderly patient presented with a prescription from Devon Doctors, having been found to have excessively high blood glucose levels. There were two items: oral anti-diabetic medication, and urine test strips: the latter came with instructions for twice-daily monitoring prior to a GP appointment on the Monday following. None of the local pharmacies had these test strips in stock, so it was arranged with the patient to carry out a number of blood glucose tests in the pharmacy on the Saturday and Sunday. The inherent advantages of this approach were that more accurate results would be available for the GP, and that the patient would be under professional supervision while blood glucose levels were well above normal. A protocol was therefore established with Devon Doctors, covering blood glucose testing, thresholds for referral back to them, and monitoring the general state of health of the patient. The programme was carried out as planned, showing a useful reduction in blood glucose levels as a result of the initial therapy, and no troublesome effects from the condition."

The pharmacist who submitted this story to us asked that the £25 book voucher be donated to a charity of the LPC's choice. We have sent £25 to Hospice Care in Exeter.

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## Targeted Medicines Use Reviews – Torbay Care Trust

As you will know the LPC has been working with the GP Commissioning consortia in Torbay, and the Torbay Care Trust, to develop targeted MURs based on respiratory conditions.

First of all we have focused on asthma MURs. There is still work to do particularly with encouraging the practices to refer patients who do not attend for clinic appointments but some pharmacists are seeing a marked number of prescriptions being marked for the DNA Patients which they are then able to conduct an MUR with.

### Headline results to date include:

- 60 audit forms returned
- 38 patients had scored less than 20 on the Asthma Control Test which indicates that their asthma has been poorly controlled in the last four weeks.
- 44 patients use their blue inhaler for more than 2-4 puffs per week.
- 13 patients smoked, four had been referred to a stop smoking service
- 31 patients had scored 3 or less on inhaler technique (1=poor, 5= excellent).
- 38 patients didn't have an asthma self management plan.

It was not surprising to see that the results so far reflect some of the hospital admission data we have seen for Torbay, with over 50% of patients scoring less than 20 points on the ACT and more than 70% over using their blue inhalers. It will be interesting to see how the scores improve over the next 6-12 months when the patients are followed up with an annual MUR.

The second workshop in this particular programme is reviewing patients with COPD and improving skills around smoking cessation. It is important that each pharmacy is represented. See "*diary dates*" for more information. The LPC is in discussion with neighbouring commissioning groups and primary care trusts to encourage the development of similar initiatives across Devon.

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## Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments

NHS Devon, NHS Plymouth, and Torbay Care Trust - The 60 day consultation periods for the PNAs has now closed for all of our PCTs. The LPC responded on behalf of its' contractors; the responses may be found on the LPC website. The LPC will now be working closely with the PCTs to finalise the PNAs ready for publication on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011. Thank you to all of those pharmacists who turned up to the locality forums to have their say! Feedback we received at the forums has been included within the LPC response.

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## Locality Forums

The latest round of local meetings has just been completed. Notes from the meetings and dates for next year can be viewed on the LPC website. ([http://www.lpc-online.org.uk/devon\\_lpc/locality\\_forum.html](http://www.lpc-online.org.uk/devon_lpc/locality_forum.html))

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## Diary Dates

11 & 27 January & 2 February 2011 (Provisional)	NHS Devon – Provisional dates for Dementia training – more details available shortly
13 January 2011	Torbay COPD Event: Venue: The Grand Hotel, Torquay
18 January 2011	Plymouth Locality Forum: The Premier Inn, Marsh Mills, Plymouth
25 January 2011	Exeter, East & Mid Devon Locality Forum: The Devon Hotel, Exeter
25 January & 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2011	Torbay Health Promotion Training – Smoking
9 February 2011	South Devon Locality Forum
10 February 2011	North Devon Locality Forum
17 February 2011	Torbay Locality Forum
28 February 2011	The Secrets of the Drug Tariff with Liam Stapleton

### CONTACT DETAILS FOR DEVON LPC

Chief Officer: Sue Taylor  
Project Pharmacist: Mark Stone  
Office Manager: Kathryn Jones  
Deer Park Business Centre,  
Haldon Hill, Kennford,  
EXETER EX6 7XX  
Tel: 01392 834022  
[www.devonlpc.org](http://www.devonlpc.org)

*The next full LPC Committee meeting will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 (7.30 pm) at the Secretariat Offices, Deer Park Business Centre, Haldon Hill, Kennford, Exeter, EX6 7XX. If you are interested in attending as an observer, please contact the Secretariat on 01392 834022.*

*Details of all forthcoming events can be found on the events page of Devon LPC website [www.devonlpc.org](http://www.devonlpc.org)*